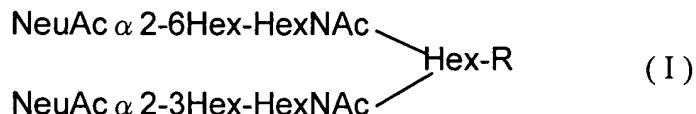


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled)

11. (New) A novel branched sialo-sugar molecule represented by the following formula (I):



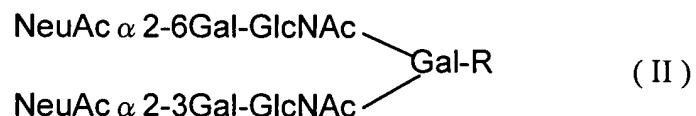
(wherein NeuAc represents *N*-acetylneuraminic acid in which the hydroxyl group, the carboxyl group and the amido group may be chemically modified with a halogen group, an alkyl group or an acyl group, either the same group or separate groups, Hex represents hexose, HexNAc represents *N*-acetylhexosamine and R represents a substrate selected from among a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbon chain, a sugar chain, a lipid, a protein and a synthetic polymer, and R may have a substituent).

12. (New) The novel branched sialo-sugar molecule according to claim 11, wherein the *N*-acetylneuraminic acid and hexose are linked by a natural O-glycoside linkage.

13. (New) The novel branched sialo-sugar molecule according to claim 11, wherein the linkage between *N*-acetylneuraminic acid and hexose is a chemically converted linkage.

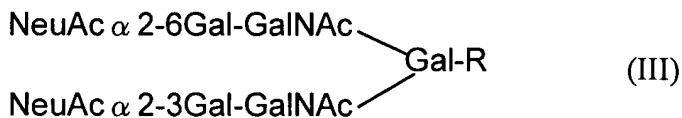
14. (New) The novel branched sialo-sugar molecule according to claim 13, wherein the linkage form between *N*-acetylneuraminic acid and hexose is an S-glycoside linkage or a Se-glycoside linkage.

15. (New) A novel branched sialo-sugar molecule represented by the following formula (II):



(wherein NeuAc represents *N*-acetylneuraminic acid in which the hydroxyl group, the carboxyl group and the amido group may be chemically modified with a halogen group, an alkyl group or an acyl group, either the same group or separate groups, Gal represents galactose, GlcNAc represents *N*-acetylglucosamine and R represents a substrate selected from among a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbon chain, a sugar chain, a lipid, a protein and a synthetic polymer, and R may have a substituent).

16. (New) A novel branched sialo-sugar molecule represented by the following formula (III):



(wherein NeuAc represents *N*-acetylneuraminic acid in which the hydroxyl group, the carboxyl group and the amido group may be chemically modified with a halogen group, an alkyl group or an acyl group, either the same group or separate groups, Gal represents galactose, GalNAc represents *N*-acetylgalactosamine and R represents a substrate selected from among a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbon chain, a sugar chain, a lipid, a protein and a synthetic polymer, and R may have a substituent).

17. (New) The novel branched sialo-sugar molecule according to either claim 15 or 16, wherein the *N*-acetylneuraminic acid and galactose are linked by a natural O-glycoside linkage.

18. (New) The novel branched sialo-sugar molecule according to either claim 15 or 16, wherein the linkage between *N*-acetylneuraminic acid and galactose is a chemically converted linkage.

19. (New) The novel branched sialo-sugar molecule according to claim 18, wherein the linkage form between *N*-acetylneuraminic acid and galactose is an S-glycoside linkage or a Se-glycoside linkage.

20. (New) An antiviral agent by comprising at least the novel branched sialo-sugar molecule according to any one of claims 11, 15 and 16 as an active ingredient.